

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

JULY 21, 2017



PHOTO BY ANDREW C. PATTERSON

Tech. Sgt. Megan Harper (left), a 326th Training Squadron military training instructor facilitator, instructs a new Airman on performing a proper salute at the 326th TRS June 23 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

MTI selected for award

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Sea service leaders recognize efforts

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AF medic living her dream

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Mentoring is for the total force

From Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright was a self-proclaimed undisciplined Airman during his first enlistment in the early 1990s, that is, until his mentor stepped in and provided the leadership he needed to set him on the right path.

Though that intervention was more than two decades ago, the importance of mentors has not changed across the Air Force – the service is still dedicated to developing the total force into well-rounded, mission-focused leaders.

“Leveraging the wisdom and experience of others enabled me to grow and achieve my goals faster,” said Chief Master Sgt. John Bentivegna, the Air Force



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY VERNON GREENE

Enlisted Force Development chief. “To this very day, I have mentors who are both senior to me and who are peers, officers, civilians and enlisted.”

Whether an Airman stays in for four or 20 years, a mentor can help them reach their goals.

Air Force mentors and mentees can connect on MyVector, a system on the Air Force Portal.

“MyVector allows you to connect with a mentor if you have someone in mind,” said Dr. Patricia McGill, the Competencies, Doctrine and Mentoring

Branch Force Development Integration Division chief. “Or if you just don’t know how to get a mentor, you can use the matching capability.”

Mentors can have four different roles: counselor, advocate, facilitator and coach, according to McGill.

“If you want the mission to be successful, you have to cultivate your people,” McGill said.

The Air Force’s mentor program focuses on the mentee, and pairs them with the best mentor match.

The introduction of Air Force Manual 36-2684 only helps further through its comprehensive information, guidelines and expectations both personal and professional development.

For more information about the mentor process, visit <https://afvec.langley.af.mil/myvector>.

Army tick experts promote prevention tactics

By Cara Newcomer
ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With the summer season in full swing, Army Public Health Center tick-borne disease experts recognize the undeniable presence of ticks, emphasizing the importance of being aware of the different illnesses they can transmit and ways to prevent these illnesses.

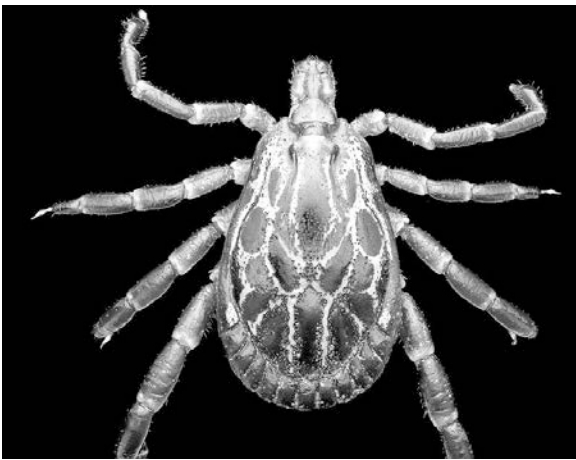
Dr. Robyn Nadolny, a biologist and program coordinator at the APHC Tick-Borne Disease Laboratory, which is part of the APHC Laboratory Sciences Directorate, presented her ecological sciences Ph.D. dissertation from Old Dominion University at an event on May 31 at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., to attendees

where she discussed the spread of tick-borne diseases to different areas.

While not every tick is infected, experts believe it is important to use protective measures against all ticks and the diseases they can carry. Ellen Stromdahl, an APHC entomologist and the other program coordinator at the Tick-Borne Disease Laboratory, emphasized disease prevention saying, ticks are everywhere and people need to make themselves aware.

“Anyone can get a tick and get sick,” she said.

These tick experts advise the use of an insect repellent containing DEET on exposed skin and insect repellent containing



GRAHAM SNODGRASS

The Gulf Coast tick carries pathogens associated with the Tidewater spotted fever disease.

TICK TACTICS continues on 4

Joint Base San Antonio HOTLINES

- Sexual Assault Hotline
210-808-SARC (7272)
- DOD Safe Helpline
877-995-5247

- Domestic Abuse Hotline
210-367-1213
- Suicide Prevention
800-273-TALK (8255)
- Duty Chaplain
210-221-9363

JBSA LEGACY

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ONE YEAR LATER

ISG focus still ‘Your Success. Our Mission.’

By Airman Dillon Parker

502ND AIR BASE WING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After one year in command as the 502nd Installation Support Group commander at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, the question that gets Col. Jonathan Wright motivated and inspired to come to work every day is, “How can we make JBSA a better place to live, work, and play?”

“We are here to support our Airmen and their families as best we can,” said Wright, who took command of the 502nd ISG June 6, 2016. “Our motto is, ‘Your success. Our mission.’”

As the 502nd ISG commander, Wright is responsible for the infrastructure and mission accomplishment of Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. His scope of responsibility includes civil engineer support, communications, air traffic control, runway maintenance and legal support of JBSA-Lackland and its 266 mission partners.

One of Wright’s favorite parts of his job is visiting members of the JBSA community, sharing coffee and getting to know different people and learning how they contribute to the mission.

“Getting to know mission partners is a crucial part of being the 502nd ISG commander,” said Wright. “How can we support our mission partners if we don’t know what they need?”

Speaking to service members also gives Wright the chance to impart some of the knowledge others have given to him over the years in hopes of helping them reach their goals.

“So many mentors, supervisors, and coworkers have helped me get to where I am today and I would like to pay that forward,” Wright said. “I had a boss when I was a young lieutenant who would call me into his office and take an hour and a half to share his experi-



ANDREW C. PATTERSON

Col. Jonathan Wright (back row, center) takes part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a dormitory hosted by the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron on Feb. 21 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

ences. I was so engrossed with his stories and amazed that he would take the time out of his busy schedule to mentor me like that.”

“When I’m talking to Airmen, I’m thinking ahead to tomorrow’s leaders, folks that will be replacing me down the road,” Wright added.

For Wright, when service members understand their importance and contribution to the mission, they are motivated to excel. His goal as commander is to ensure mission partners receive a great experience as well as timely service.

“How did you receive my service? What kind of a difference did I make versus what did you receive?” Wright explains. “That’s our motto in a nutshell.”

“It’s important to us that we build and sustain a level of trust between our mission partners and us,” Wright adds. “We want them to know they can depend on our installation support.”

Wright’s goals for JBSA-Lackland are closely aligned with the main priorities of Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle, 502nd ABW and JBSA commander:

- ▶▶ Lead a motivated, highly qualified, world class workforce
- ▶▶ Sustain and improve installation process, support and services
- ▶▶ Manage infrastructure sus-

tainment and resources

“While these are all important to us, we really want to focus on improving the infrastructure,” Wright explains. “Especially in the next three years, but also deep into the future. Interacting with our mission partners is a big part of taking care of the infrastructure so we can know where to put those dollars.”

Wright will admit that in order to make JBSA a better place to live, work, and play for spouses and family members, it requires others just as dedicated to help make this happen. That’s where Lisa Wright comes in.

As the 502nd ISG commander’s wife, Lisa is also very much involved with the ISG as their key spouse.

“As a group level key spouse, I mostly mentor the spouses at the squadron level,” said Lisa. “They can come to me with any problems they might have and I can maybe help by reaching out to one of my (contacts).”

“We want bigger and better for our families. There are so many wonderful resources around JBSA and we hope to reach more families so that they know what’s out there,” Lisa said.

Lisa said the biggest part of what both her and her husband do is to be there for their people. This was evident

“I have seen countless examples of people putting service before self, working at the darkest hours of the night to solve emergency situations.”

Col. Jonathan Wright, 502nd Installation Support Group commander

Thanksgiving Day 2016.

“We baked about 20 pies and drove to all of our locations to drop them off for our Airmen who had to work during the holiday,” said Lisa, adding that she knows what it’s like to be away from family, and it’s their job to support service members and their families.

Wright also shows his support for Airmen in a personal way. As an avid artist who began drawing as a hobby, Wright is known to give away his personal drawings to Airmen on special occasions, such as retirement or a permanent change of station.

“It started as a hobby, but as my skills developed, people began requesting my drawings,” Wright explained. Wright doesn’t sell his drawings. When he gives away his drawings he asks the recipients to do something nice for somebody else in return for receiving his work.

As Wright works with his staff to move toward the 502nd ABW vision of JBSA becoming the premier installation in the Department of Defense, Wright is determined to continue providing innovative solutions to increase mission efficiency and growth.

Squadrons under the ISG are working to preserve and protect the installation into the future, according to Wright. Future projects include renovations to the air traffic control tower, and modernizing communications and infrastructure systems.

“There’s approximately 15 to 16 different categories of infra-

structure, anything from the sewer lines, to roads, bridges, roofs, interior, energy and so on,” he said. “I have seen countless examples of people putting service before self, working at the darkest hours of the night to solve emergency situations. There’s an incredible amount of work happening by outstanding professionals every day.”

Highlighting the work of the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Wright believes that a large part of the wing’s success is due to their efforts toward sustaining and innovating systems to combat any problem that may arise.

“When you go to turn the lights on, you expect that the lights are going to work, but behind the scenes there are so many people involved,” said Wright. “There’s a whole energy distribution system to get that power to that light bulb but we just take it for granted.”

Feeding off the dedication and tireless work accomplished by 502nd ISG members, Wright plans to continue providing support and guidance to not only service members assigned to his command, but to everyone at JBSA.

“I have many exceptional professionals that work daily supporting our mission partners and I have an incredible amount of respect for their efforts,” Wright said. “I want to thank them for their work and know that through their tireless efforts and passion, we can continue providing unparalleled customer experience and mission support for our partners.”

TICK TACTICS

From page 2

permethrin on clothing. The Army treats their uniforms with permethrin repellent to further protect Soldiers while they are in uniform, Stromdahl said. Civilians can also order clothing treated with permethrin.

Prompt removal of a tick is one way to reduce risk of disease transmission, Stromdahl said. If a tick is found attached to the skin, experts recommend removing the tick by using pointy tweezers, grabbing the tick close to the skin and pulling it out slowly.

Nadolny and Stromdahl also recommend doing a thorough tick check after spending time in tick habitat and putting clothes through a cycle on hot in the dryer immediately after getting home in order kill any ticks on the clothes.

The Army Public Health Center offers a program to military personnel, their dependents and Department of Defense civilians called the DOD Human Tick Test Kit Program, where ticks can be sent for identification and disease testing. The program is meant to serve as a 'first alert' for tick-bite pa-

tients and their health care providers, according to APHC representatives.

Ticks can spread diseases to people, pets and other animals through pathogens in their saliva. These pathogens have been linked to causing diseases like Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, babesiosis, anaplasmosis and other diseases, including viral diseases. Stromdahl said awareness of some of the lesser known tick-borne diseases is important.

Both Stromdahl and Nadolny stressed that different tick species carry different diseases. Stromdahl gave examples of the lone star tick, which vectors the agent of ehrlichiosis, and the black-legged or deer tick, which vectors the agents of Lyme disease, babesiosis and anaplasmosis.

Nadolny focused on the Gulf Coast tick, which vectors the agent of Tidewater spotted fever, and Ixodes affinis, the scientific name of an ixodid tick that doesn't bite humans, but does transmit the agent of Lyme disease among animals.

Nadolny attributed the ticks' expanding ranges to climate change, anthropogenic changes to the environment through habitat modification and host movements.

AF selects 8,167 for promotion to technical sergeant

By Richard Salomon

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force officials selected 8,167 staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant out of 25,552 eligible for a selection rate of 31.9 percent.

The technical sergeant promotion list will be available on the Air Force Portal and myPers July 20, at 8 a.m. CDT. On July 21, Airmen can also access their score notices on the Virtual Military Personnel Flight via Air Force Personnel Center's secure applications page.

Those selected for technical sergeant will be promoted beginning Aug. 1 according to their promotion sequence number.

Commanders will receive notice of their selects from their senior rater's



COURTESY GRAPHIC

agent starting this week and will begin congratulating those selected for technical sergeant on the morning of July 20.

Air Force rolls out phased retirement program for eligible civilians

By Richard Salomon
AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Eligible Air Force civilian employees now have the option of working part time in a “semi-retired” status, according to new Air Force Instruction 36-817, Civilian Phased Retirement Program.

The civilian phased-retirement program allows eligible full-time employees to request to work on a part-time basis and receive a portion of their retirement annuity. Under the program, phased retirees will work half the number of hours they worked as full-time employees immediately prior to entering phased retirement.

“This program allows dedicated employees with decades of experience to pass on critical knowledge to our other employees in the organization,” said Annette Castro, a human resource specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center. “It serves as a mentoring and training tool to ensure the next generation of civilians are pre-



COURTESY GRAPHIC

pared for success. Institutional knowledge is often difficult to replace.”

Participation is voluntary and requires the mutual consent of both the employee and the Air Force. To be eligible, employees should be employed on a full-time basis for at least three consecutive years before beginning the program. The phased retirement period is for one year with an option to

extend for an additional year.

The rules for employees under the Federal Employees Retirement System differ slightly from those employees under the Civil Service Retirement System.

Retirement-eligible employees under FERS will need to have at least 30 years of service and have reached the minimum retirement age (between 55 and 57, depending on the birth year)

or have at least 20 years of service and be at least 60 years old. Under CSRS, employees will need to have at least 30 years of service and be at least 55 years old or have at least 20 years of service and be at least 60 years old.

Under the guidelines, civilian employees in the phased retirement program remain in the same position authorization they were in prior to entering

the program and should not be moved to an over-hire billet or to another authorization while in phased retirement. Hiring officials may hire an additional part-time employee to carry out the remaining 50 percent manning hours or a full-time, over-hire employee only if funding is available to support both the phased retiree's part-time salary and the part-time/full-time replacement.

Additionally, phased retirees will be required to mentor other employees for at least 20 percent of their working hours. Air Force organizations can establish mentoring guidelines to best suit their needs.

“Mentorship plays an important role in shaping our future leaders and for passing on knowledge to successive generations,” Castro said. “It’s an investment that requires time, effort and dedication.”

Civilian employees considering phased retirement are encouraged to fully research the program.

The new AFI can be found at Air Force e-Publishing.

Air Force releases first-term Airman retraining quotas for FY18

By Kat Bailey
AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Eligible active-duty first-term Airmen may choose from more than 1,400 approved retraining quotas in over 20 career fields for fiscal year 2018.

Retraining allows enlisted Airmen, to include staff and technical sergeants on their first enlistment, to retrain into skills where a shortage exists, in conjunction with a reenlistment.

“A first-term Airman can apply to retrain into one of the open quotas found in the FTA

column of the retraining advisory on myPers, provided they meet the eligibility requirements,” said Master Sgt. Kris Reece, the Air Force Personnel Center enlisted retraining superintendent.

AFPC updates the enlisted retraining advisory on myPers in real time, Reece said, which helps Airmen identify the career fields with retraining-in-quotas available in their grade, or projected grade if already selected for promotion.

Retraining opportunities are available in a variety of career fields, including cyber, safety,

flight engineer, command and control operations, and more. Most are open to all eligible Airmen, but some, such as the cyber warfare operations AFSC, require prior qualification.

“We advise potential applicants to check the retraining advisory and notes closely to avoid delays in the application process, particularly regarding eligibility,” Reece said. “Retraining is a great opportunity for Airmen to pursue a different career field while enabling the Air Force to maintain a healthy balance in all enlisted

career fields.”

The Air Force Work Interest Navigator, available on the retraining page on myPers, is another tool Airmen may use to identify potential career fields of interest by answering a series of questions about functional communities, job context and work activities.

“The AF-WIN tool creates a customized job-interest report from your responses and compares your interests to all entry-level AFSCs,” Reece said. “You’ll still want to visit the enlisted retraining advisory because AF-WIN doesn’t tell

you if a career field is available or if you meet the eligibility qualifications.”

Retraining information is available and continuously updated on myPers. Click “Retraining” from the active-duty enlisted landing page. The online training advisory is listed under the “Tools” section. In addition, a live chat feature is available for Airmen on the “First Term Airmen Retraining” page. To chat live with a Total Force Service Center representative, go to the page and allow about 30 to 60 seconds for a representative to come online.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Remains of Korean War POW arrive home to rest 66 years later

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sixty-six years after he was reported missing in action and died while serving in the Korean War, Army Cpl. Frank Sandoval was laid to rest in his hometown of San Antonio July 11 with military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Family members, including two of Sandoval's sons, Alejandro and Frank Jr., attended the military service in which Sandoval's remains were brought by caisson to family members gathered in the Assembly area at the cemetery and included a three-gun salute, Taps and presentation of flags to both of Sandoval's sons.

The 20-year-old Sandoval was a member of Battery A, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, which was supporting the South Korean Army in attacks against the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces, or CPVF, in North Korea when he was captured by the CPVF in February 1951 and reported missing in action.

Sandoval was confirmed deceased by the Army in 1953 after several returning American prisoners of war reported that Sandoval had died while being held in Camp 3, a POW camp near Changsong, North Korea.

Frank Sandoval Jr. said he is grateful that he got to see his father's remains returned home.

"It means a lot," he said. "So many years have gone by and



OLIVIA MENDOZA

Oscar Cortez (left), a former Korean War POW who served in the same unit with Army Cpl. Frank Sandoval, presents a framed photo of the unit to Sandoval's sons, Frank Jr. and Alejandro, July 11 at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Cortez, 85, said the photo was taken four days before their unit was captured.

it's unbelievable; the day is unbelievable. He was gone when I was little. I never got to know him. We're very glad he is home where we can see him.

"By him coming home has taken off a lot of weight off our backs," Sandoval Jr. added. "Now we can sleep easier at night. We're a family again."

In May, Sandoval's remains were identified by scientists from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, which provides the fullest possible accounting of missing service

members to their families, after undergoing a thorough laboratory analysis.

His remains had been interred and labeled unknown at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii, after they were obtained from North Korea in 1954 after United Nations and communist forces exchanged the remains of the war dead.

Alejandro Sandoval, the eldest son of Sandoval's, was three or four years old when his father was captured in

Korea. He said the return of his father's remains brings final closure to the Sandoval family.

"We finally have a father," Alejandro said, who served for 10 years in the Army.

Also attending the service was Oscar Cortez, a former Korean War POW, who served in the same unit with Sandoval. He and Sandoval were captured at the same time and were both held in Camp 3.

Cortez, who served for 20 years in the Army, said the last time he spoke to Sandoval in

the prison camp, Sandoval told him he was going to the prison hospital. Cortez knew at that time he wouldn't see Sandoval again because prisoners who went to the prison camp hospital never came back alive.

"Sixty-five years ago, I said my goodbyes to Frank," Cortez said.

Cortez spent 2½ years as a POW before being released Aug. 26, 1953, when the war ended.

FORT SAM HOUSTON BRIEFS

Change of Command

The U.S. Army Medical Professional Training Brigade, U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School, Health Readiness Center of Excellence, conducts a change of command at 9 a.m. July 25 at the AMEDD Museum Amphitheater. The outgoing commander, Col. W. Scott Drennon will relinquish command to Col. Shauna L. Snyder in a ceremony presided over by Maj. Gen. Brian C. Lein, AMEDDC&S, HRCoE commanding general. There will be a reception immediately following inside the AMEDD Museum. The public is invited. For more information, call 210-808-4263 or 210-295-2300.

Build-a-Backpack program

Date: July 25-Aug. 10
The Joint Base San Antonio School Liaison Offices will kick off the 7th annual Build-A-Backpack program to provide backpacks full of school supplies to local military and community children in need. Squadrons, private organizations, offices and individual groups can help make a difference. For

more information about donations or how to nominate a service member in need, visit <http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Military-Family-Readiness/School-Liaison-Office>.

Trail & Tales guided tours

Date/Time: July 28, 8-11 a.m.
Location: Military & Family Readiness Center, building 2797
Attendees will tour Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Registration required, seating is limited. To register, call 210-221-2705.

Ombudsman basic training

Registration Deadline: July 31
Date/Time: Aug. 7-8, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Location: M&FRC, building 2797
The Ombudsman program is a unit family readiness program for Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard service members and their families. This is a mandatory training for all Command Ombudsman and open to commanding officers, executive officers, senior enlisted leaders and spouses. To register, call 210-221-2418.

AF civilian wins major DOD award

By Edward Durell

AIR FORCE DEPARTMENTAL
STANDARDIZATION OFFICE

Dr. Bertram Jon Klauenberg, a senior research physiologist with the 77th Human Performance Wing's Radio Frequency Bioeffects Branch at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston recently won the prestigious Defense Standardization Program Achievement Award for 2016, one of only a handful of recipients throughout the Department of Defense.

The presentation took place during a Pentagon ceremony presided over by Kristin Baldwin, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering.

Each year, one of award winners is singled out for being "best-of-the-best"



COURTESY PHOTO
Dr. Bertram Jon Klauenberg
*Defense Standardization
Program Achievement Award
recipient*

and is also presented with the distinguished achievement award. This year, it was Klauenberg, who received a check for \$5,000.

Klauenberg's work led to the development of standards for protecting military personnel from

the potentially harmful effects of exposure to electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields.

The 77th Human Performance Wing is an Air Force Materiel Command organization, established under the Air Force Research Laboratory, with its headquarters at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

"The award is special as it recognizes the importance of standardization in ensuring safety and occupational health for our personnel who work in electromagnetic environments, which have become complex and virtually ubiquitous," Klauenberg said. "These standards transition scientific knowledge are linchpins enabling safe fielding of new technologies and are essential to multinational

interoperability."

The awards honor personnel and organizations from military departments and defense agencies for outstanding performance in the implementation of the Defense Standardization Program, with recipients making improvements in technical performance to enhance safety for DOD personnel and avoid billions of dollars in costs.

"He has put his heart and soul into national, DOD, and NATO radio frequency safety standards development over the years," said Dr. Gordon Hengst, Radio Frequency Bioeffects Branch chief. "He has ensured the standards put in play for the DOD and NATO are safe for the unique military environments our military operate in."

Local sea service leaders recognize Navy Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive efforts

By Petty Officer 1st Class
Jacquelyn D. Childs
NMETLC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Several Navy and Marine Corps commands in the San Antonio area recognized key volunteers in the most recent annual Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, or NMCRS, fund drive during a quarterly sea service leadership meeting at Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command, or NMETLC, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston July 10.

"I think it's really important to make a statement for all of us," said Rear Adm. Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, NMETLC commander and the senior Navy officer in the area. "Once a year, we have the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive for our own. It's by our



PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS JACQUELYN D. CHILDS
Rear Adm. Rebecca McCormick-Boyle (right), commander, Navy Medicine Education, Training and Logistics Command, presents Angelica Botkin, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society director of the San Antonio office, with a check representing the money collected by Navy and Marine Corps commands in the San Antonio area during the annual fund drive.

own, for our own. We have an opportunity to contribute so if somebody is in need, they get taken care of."

McCormick-Boyle chose to have the small recognition

ceremony during the sea service meeting to demonstrate appreciation by San Antonio area Navy and Marine Corps leaders for all the volunteers involved. It was something the

admiral wanted to do in front of the commanding officers and other senior leaders.

"I think it's important to acknowledge the people who made it go, all the key people in your commands who had to ask for donations," she said. "It's sometimes really hard to get people to open the wallet."

Overall, the San Antonio area collected \$60,389.57 through various fundraising and donation activities.

Angelica Botkin, NMCRS San Antonio Office director, expressed her appreciation and announced the achievements of several Navy commands.

Joint Electronic Warfare Center had the highest rate of contributions with 100 percent of the command donating this year. Navy Operational Support Center, or NOSC, had the second high-

est rate of contributors.

Navy Medicine Training Support Center had the highest total contributions with \$22,513.57. Navy Technical Training Center-Lackland had the second highest total.

NOSC had the highest improvement with 196 percent over last year's contributions.

"It's important to know that we have a small but growing footprint here," McCormick-Boyle said. "Most of us are doing quite fine. But for many of us, it's just tough. When you move and you've got a kid and a spouse and the car breaks and you've got to get the kids to school, it's hard. Remember the relief society is there for us."

The NMCRS San Antonio office opened at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston in 2016, operating part time and became a fully operational NMCRS branch July 1.

Wounded warrior brings Miss America to Brooke Army Medical Center

By Elaine Sanchez
BAMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Savvy Shields, the former Miss Arkansas and current Miss America 2017, visited with wounded warriors, their families and staff at Brooke Army Medical Center July 12 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Sporting her beauty pageant crown, BAMC staff and patients lined up to receive Shields' autograph and take a "selfie" with her in the hospital's Medical Mall, followed by a visit with wounded warriors at the Center for the Intrepid, BAMC's rehabilitation facility. Earlier in the day, Shields spent time with warriors recovering in the inpatient wards.

"It's amazing," Shields said during her CFI tour. "I'm at a loss for words."

Shields was accompanied by

retired Chief Warrant Officer Levi Rodgers, a wounded warrior who recovered at BAMC several years ago. A local real estate business owner, Rodgers crossed paths with Miss America during a charity auction in Las Vegas recently.

"The last auction item was Miss America," he recalled. After a heated bidding war, he won Miss America with a \$20,000 contribution to the charity.

With a day at his disposal, Rodgers decided he wanted to bring Miss America to BAMC to visit with fellow warriors. His aim was to return the good will he felt when celebrities came to visit him in the hospital.

Rodgers was wounded by an IED in Afghanistan Sept. 15, 2009 while on patrol in the Nimroz province. He broke his legs, back and neck and suffered 40 percent total body

burns. He had a long road to recovery, but found comfort in the hospital visits, particularly one from professional golfer Tim Simpson.

"I didn't know much about golf, but I knew who he was," Rodgers said. "We're still friends to this day. For him to take the time to come to BAMC to visit and shake hands; it has a big impact."

Life was rocky after he left the service, Rodgers noted, but through hard work he persevered and became a real estate agent. Today, he's a successful business owner. "The whole purpose of what I do is to show anyone can do it."

After he won the auction, Rodgers was intent on bringing Miss America to BAMC to cheer up fellow warriors and witness the care here.

"If it wasn't for BAMC and the Burn Center, I wouldn't have



ROBERT SHIELDS
Brooke Army Medical Center volunteer Pedro Rivera (left) chats with Miss America 2017 Savvy Shields in the BAMC Medical Mall July 12 during her visit.

what I have today," he said. "I'd like to put smiles on their faces

like people put on my face."

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Youth Center will hold annual Back to School Bash

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Schoolchildren and families can take advantage of free school supplies, take part in many activities and have a chance to win prizes during the Back to School Bash from 9 a.m. to noon July 29 at the W. Ed Parker Youth Center, building 1630 on Watkins Boulevard, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The free event, which is being put on by the 502nd Force Support Squadron and JBSA Youth Programs, is open to active-duty, military family members and all Department of Defense government civilians and their families.

Barbara Fuller, 502nd FSS marketing operations supervisor at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, said the Back to School Bash will have fun activities and games for both children and parents to participate in, as well as free school supplies



COURTESY GRAPHIC

for students in kindergarten through fifth grade who will be heading back to school in August.

"It's essentially getting parents and children geared up for the school year," Fuller said.

The free school supplies will be offered to schoolchildren on a first-come, first-served basis. To pick up the school supplies, parents will need to bring each of their children's DOD identification cards, or a school report

card if their child is younger than 10 years of age, and a backpack to carry the supplies.

In addition, activities include face painting provided by volunteers from United Services Organization, games and appearances by Sparky the Fire Dog, McGruff the Crime Dog, JBSA Fire Emergency Services firefighters and members of the 502nd Security Forces Squadron. The 502nd SFS will also be giving away a limited supply of

fingerprinting kits.

Door prizes that will be given away include a Dell laptop computer, ear bud headphones, lipstick charger and three safety duffel bags. People can enter for door prizes at the event and must be present to win.

Also, several JBSA organizations and units will have displays set up during the event.

The Back to School Bash, which has been going on for 10 years, had previously been held in the parking lot of the Campbell Memorial Library at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. This year is the first time the event will be held at the W. Ed Parker Youth Center.

By hosting the event at the youth center, Fuller said more activities will be offered than in previous years.

"We wanted to expand what we offered to our customers and make it fun and family-friendly," she said.

For more information, contact JBSA Community Programs at 652-5763.

Hundreds attend JBSA transition summit, job fair

By Steve Elliott

and Priya Sridhar
502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hundreds of military members preparing to leave the service or who have already left took advantage of a free transition summit and job fair at the Fort Sam Houston Community Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston July 12-13.

The summit featured the Hiring Our Heroes career fair that featured more than 50 local and national employers. Service members said that leaving the military can be a daunting prospect for many.

Over the two-day

event, hundreds came out to the Hiring Our Heroes career fair to explore their options. Employers say that they see a special skill set in military members who oftentimes are entering the workforce after decades of service.

This past year 60 percent of Toyota's hires for skilled jobs at the San Antonio plant were veterans.

"We know that hiring veterans you're going to have someone at work every single day that you need them, so we specifically seek out veterans because of their reliability and their discipline," Albert Escamilla from Toyota said.



Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle (left), 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander, signs the Commanders' Proclamation July 12 during the Transition Assistance Days event at the Fort Sam Houston Community Center. Brig. Gen. John Hashem (center), U.S. Army North deputy commanding general; and Rear Adm. Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, commander, Navy Medicine Education and Training Command, look on.

OLIVIA MENDOZA

POW

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Once he returned home, Cortez, who lives in San Antonio, said he tried to get in touch with Sandoval's family to let them know what had happened to them.

"I'm just glad he's finally home," he said. "I always thought about him. I always tried to locate his family because I wanted to let them know about Frank."

Cortez presented a framed photo of the unit he and Sandoval served in while they were in action to Sandoval's sons.

Cortez, 85, said the photo was taken three to four days before their unit was captured.

One of Sandoval's grandchildren and Alejandro's son, Alex Sandoval II, said before the service it was an honor that his late grandfather, whom he never met, would have his final resting place in his hometown of San Antonio.

"It's an honor for him to come back home," he said. "He'll get the service he deserves. He's going to get the service he never got when they found out he was missing."

Mary Gibbons, a granddaughter of Sandoval's, said she was happy that her father,

Alejandro, and uncle, Frank Jr., got to see their father's remains returned home.

"I feel it's good that he (Frank Sandoval) gets to come home and be recognized for the sacrifice he made for this country," Gibbons said.

Sandoval's wife, Guadalupe, passed away last year before she got to see her husband returned home.

"I'm very sad my grandmother didn't live to see it," Gibbons said. "She missed it by a year."

Sandoval was from a family of nine children that included six brothers and nine sisters. All of the brothers enlisted in

the service at the same time during the Korean War. Sandoval was the only brother in the family who enlisted who did not return home.

Gibbons said members of the Sandoval family served in the military because they felt it was something they needed to do for their country.

"I think they felt it was their responsibility as American citizens to do this," she said.

When Sandoval's remains were identified, family members were able to get answers about the possible cause of his death and the process that led to the identification of his remains through a Department

of Defense book given to them by an armed forces liaison.

Gibbons said she learned that her grandfather died of malnutrition in the POW camp in North Korea.

Alex Sandoval II said he found the details in the DOD book about his grandfather to be informative, including where his grandfather served in Korea.

"I'm a big military history buff," he said. "The whole thing was full of information worth reading."

There are still 7,741 American service members who served in the Korean War who remain unaccounted for.

LACKLAND

AF MTI named Military Times' Airman of the Year

By Ashley Palacios
37TH TRAINING WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A 326th Training Squadron military training instructor facilitator has been selected as the Military Times' 2017 Airman of the Year for her exceptional service over the course of a 15-year Air Force career.

Tech. Sgt. Megan Harper, who became an MTI in March 2013 and Airmen's Week facilitator in August 2016, received her honor July 12 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

"She does so much for our unit," said Maj. Christopher Sweeney, 326th TRS assistant director of operations. "Everything she does, she gives it her all. On her breaks from instructing, she comes down to her desk and continues working on her additional duties."

As a facilitator, Harper's job is to facilitate classes during

"There is not a single Airman who doesn't have a friend or mentor in Harper. When you tell someone that Harper was your MTI at BMT, they know you were trained by the best."

Maj. Christopher Sweeney, 326th Training Squadron assistant director of operations

Airmen's Week, a transitional character development period between basic military training and technical school when Airmen have the opportunity to apply and internalize the Air Force creed and core values taught during BMT.

She is the NCO mentor to new Airmen, Sweeney said. Her job is to motivate the Airmen and help them internalize the reasons behind their service.

In addition to her regular job

as an interim instructor supervisor, Harper has two major additional duties within the unit and is also a backup instructor, a role typically filled by a master sergeant.

Originally Harper's leadership submitted an award package for the 37th Training Wing NCO of the Year, but she wasn't selected. Sweeney felt so passionately Harper deserved recognition for all she does, he

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ANDREW C. PATTERSON

Tech. Sgt. Megan Harper, 326th Training Squadron military training instructor facilitator (center), stands with Airmen at the 326th TRS during Airmen's Week June 23 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.



INTEL AIRMAN EARNS TOP LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Senior Airman Jonathan Francis (center), 433rd Operations Support Squadron intelligence flight, Maj. Wesley Lowery, 433rd OSS chief of intelligence (left), and Lt. Col. Kari Hill, 433rd OSS commander (right), display Francis' Airman Leadership School awards July 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Francis was awarded the Distinguished Graduate and the Commandant's Award.

BENJAMIN FASKE

Veterans from support agency visit Alamo Wing

From 433rd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

The 433rd Airlift Wing hosted veterans from the Camino Real Community Service June 30 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. The group of veterans had a combined 50 years of military service with members from

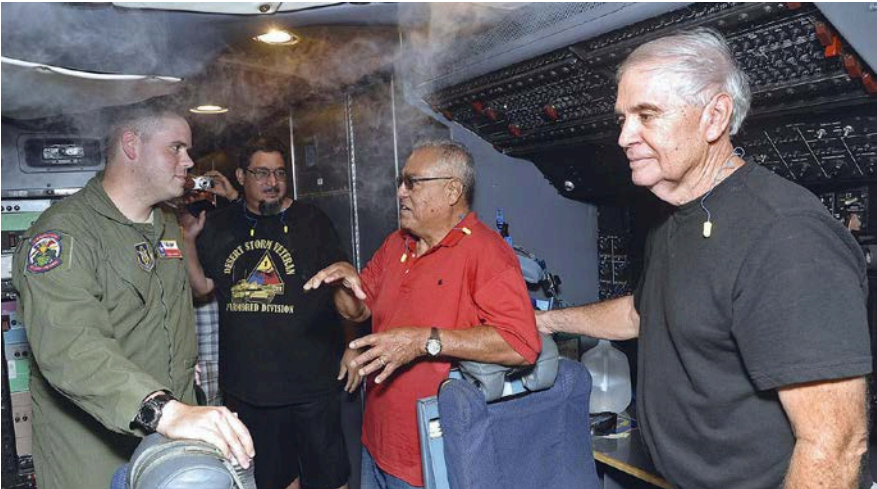
the Vietnam and Gulf wars. The veterans toured the C-5M Super Galaxy by viewing the cargo compartment, the flight deck where they sat in the pilot chair and the flight crew berthing areas.

Many of the veterans were shocked at the size of the aircraft.

“It’s really interesting, I

had seen them flying in the sky,” said Martin Llamas, a Vietnam veteran. “I was just so surprised at how large this aircraft is, that really stood out to me.”

CRCS is a veteran-friendly, veteran-informed agency that uses “peer-to-peer” support to service veterans and their families.



Staff Sgt. Eric Ganley (left), 68th Airlift Squadron engineer, answers questions from veterans from Camino Real Community Services during a tour of a C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft June 30 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN FASKE



Staff Sgt. Cole Lance (far right), 68th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, shows veterans from Camino Real Community Services the aft load ramp on a C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft June 30 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

LACKLAND BRIEFS

Save the Date: JBSA Air Force Ball

Date/Time: Sept. 29, 6 p.m. social, 7 p.m. dinner
Location: Hyatt Hill Country Resort, 9800 Hyatt Resort Drive
Save the date for the 2017 Joint Base San Antonio Air Force Ball, which features retired Gen. Mark Welsh III, the 20th Chief of Staff of the Air Force as guest speaker. This is also the 70th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force. More information will be published as it becomes available.

Military caregiver support group

Date/Time: July 21, 9-11 a.m.
Location: 7206 Carswell Ave.
Attendees will build a support network, share experiences and information. For more information, call 210-292-5989.

Build-a-Backpack program

Date: July 25-Aug. 10
The Joint Base San Antonio School Liaison Offices will kick off the 7th annual Build-A-Backpack program to provide backpacks full of school supplies to local military and community children in need. Squadrons, private organizations, offices and individual groups can help make a difference. For more information about donations or how to nominate a service member in need, visit <http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Military-Family-Readiness/School-Liaison-Office>.

Dads: The Basics
Date/Time: July 28, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Location: Building 2513, across from Warhawk Gym
This class will provide basic information about becoming a dad and the role of a father. Participants will receive helpful lists, guides and information related to pregnancy, labor and delivery, communicating with your spouse, caring for an infant and managing family issues. For more information, call 210-671-3722.

Operation Junior Expeditionary Team

Registration deadline: Aug. 4
Date/Time: Aug. 11, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Operation Junior Expeditionary Team, or OPIET, provides youth with a simulated deployment experience that resembles what their parent(s) experience when they leave home for a deployment. Open to dependents from all branches of service, ages 7 and up. One parent or adult escort is required to remain on site. Registration is required. For more information, call 210-671-3722 or email 802fss.fsfr@us.af.mil.

MTI

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approached some of Harper's former supervisors and other wingmen around base and they all agreed to send in a nomination package to the Military Times on Harper's behalf. In total, at least eight different packages were submitted for Harper.

"This has been an incredible honor and such a humbling experience," Harper said. "In the last 15 years, I've had the opportunity to serve with the Air Force's best of the best and it's been an honor to be recognized among them."

One of the reasons Sweeney feels Harper is deserving of recognition is for the day her heroic actions saved a choking trainee and a woman who

had been hit by a car.

While in the dining facility, Harper saw a trainee who was choking on food. After taking the appropriate precautions, Harper performed the Heimlich maneuver on the trainee and dislodged the food stuck in his throat. About an hour and a half later, Harper was leaving the installation and saw a group of people surrounding a woman who had been hit by a car which had fled the scene. Harper and two other Airmen were able to treat the woman for shock and stabilize her until an ambulance arrived.

"The military definitely prepared me to be able to deliver basic lifesaving skills and how to respond to the situation I found myself in that day," Harper said. "I was security forces for the first 12 years

of my Air Force career and we receive amazing training in basic first aid and emergency response. Additionally, as an MTI, I have been given further training in the event a trainee is in distress and needs help."

Harper was inspired to join the Air Force as a security forces Airman after the Sept. 11 attacks and has deployed five times to Iraq, Kuwait and Kyrgyzstan. She is also one of only nine women to complete the elite security forces' Phoenix Raven program, which trains Airmen to provide security for aircraft operating in high terrorist and criminal threat areas.

Harper has some advice for the Air Force's newest Airmen.

"Be hungry for success, but stay humble so you can overcome challenges," Harper said. "When

the grass looks greener on the other side, it's important to remember to take time to tend your own lawn. Your success is based not only on the situations you encounter but your reactions to those situations."

Harper's enthusiasm is contagious in the unit, Sweeney said. She boosts morale by motivating the Airmen and coordinating team-building activities that incorporate fitness and volunteer work, two areas for which she is passionate.

"There is not a single Airman who doesn't have a friend or mentor in Harper," Sweeney said. "When you tell someone that Harper was your MTI at BMT, they know you were trained by the best. She is the gold standard of military training and the epitome of what it means to be an Airman."

RANDOLPH

AF medic living her dream as a first sergeant

By Robert Goetz

502ND AIR BASE WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A master sergeant who has spent most of her career helping people as a medic has long dreamed of serving the Air Force community in another way.

She is now living that dream as a first sergeant.

Master Sgt. Gina Escanes became the 502nd Air Base Wing staff agencies' first sergeant nearly a year ago. She serves more than 500 service members whose career fields range from contracting, safety and public affairs to equal opportunity, administration and legal.

"What motivated me to become a first sergeant was to help people, especially those who are in need," she said. "I also wanted to be that person they could come to and feel they were going to be helped in the way they needed it. I am a medic by trade, so I've taken care of patients and I wanted to continue assisting people in their time of need and make the unit a better place."

Escanes said her days can be "very unpredictable," but



SEAN WORRELL

Master Sgt. Gina Escanes, 502nd Air Base Wing staff agencies' first sergeant, counsels an Airman on the Air Force Fitness Program July 5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

they often start in the same way.

"I check in with the chief and commander first thing in the morning just to see if there's anything going on or if there's anything they need help with," she said.

Some of her other duties are assisting the commander support staff, checking her emails, getting ready for award presentations or commander's calls and taking care of administrative paperwork, especially any

pending disciplinary actions.

"Part of my typical day may also include in-processing as well as out-processing folks," Escanes said. "This may include deployments, getting people ready to go down-range."

One of Escanes' greatest challenges in her position is covering three locations: JBASA-Fort Sam Houston, JBASA-Lackland and JBASA-Randolph.

"I have personnel at three locations, so I'm not able to be at each location every day," she

said. "I plan site visits so I can get to know the people and learn what they do."

First sergeants have a disciplinary role as well. Escanes said she works to balance that duty with her role as supporter of her Airmen.

"It can be very difficult to uphold standards of conduct and also try to be there for them," she said. "I try my best to make them understand I'm going to enforce those standards, but I'm also here for them."

A Los Angeles native, Escanes joined the Air Force after graduating from high school and found her niche as an aerospace medical technician. Her journeys have taken her to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England; Sheppard AFB, Texas; JBASA-Lackland; and JBASA-Fort Sam Houston.

Escanes, who also has extensive duties as a wife and the mother of five children, was serving as 59th Medical Wing Internal Medicine Flight chief when she became a first sergeant in August 2016 through the Developmental Special

Duty process.

"I knew years ago I wanted to be a first sergeant, so as soon as I put on my master sergeant stripe I started looking into becoming a first sergeant," she said. "I let my chief know I wanted to become a first sergeant. She said she thought I would make a great first sergeant."

Escanes said she did not fully realize the responsibilities of a first sergeant when she assumed her position, but she enjoyed the job from the start.

"Probably what I enjoy most about my job is the people — interacting with them, learning about their lives and learning about their jobs," she said. "I was in the medical career field for 18 years, so I know a lot about that field. Being the wing staff agencies' first sergeant, I get to learn about a lot of different career fields."

Escanes said being a first sergeant is probably the best job she's had in the Air Force.

"I enjoy it every day, I like the unpredictability of it, I love just being able to get out there, help people and make a difference," she said.

Scheduling begins for 2017 Sports Physical Clinic appointments

From 359th Medical Group

The staff at the 359th Medical Group Clinic are continually working to improve how they do business. In a continued effort to improve customer satisfaction, scheduling for annual sports physicals began June 26. Sports physicals will

be conducted throughout July and into the beginning of August, specifically July 5 to Aug. 11.

These exams will be by appointment only; times vary depending on desired provider and requested date/time. These appointments are intended only for children ages 10 to 18

who are empaneled to the 359th Medical Group at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph.

This year, the 359th Medical Group clinic anticipates offering more than 300 sports physical appointments during this time. If a child has medical

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Sports Physicals

COURTESY GRAPHIC

SPORTS

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issues such as asthma or ADHD or requires medication refills, they will not be included in the sports physical and parents should schedule a regular well appointment to address these medical needs.

Sports physical appointments can be booked by calling the central appointment line at 916-9900, Monday –

Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Parents are advised not to wait until the last minute to accomplish this school requirement. If the child's well child appointment is current within the last year, this can serve for the requirement if a sports physical was performed at that time.

Required forms:
 ► Completed school sports physical forms from the school or may be downloaded from: uil

texas.org/files/athletics/forms/preparticipation-physical-evaluation.pdf
 ► Child's immunization record that may be printed from imr.afms.mil/imr/MyIMR.aspx (CAC enabled) or a current copy of shot records

► Participants are asked to wear athletic attire
 ► Must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, 18 years or older; no older siblings unless they are 18 or older.

RANDOLPH BRIEFS

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Date: July 25-Aug. 10
 The Joint Base San Antonio School Liaison Offices will kick off the 7th annual Build-A-Backpack program to provide backpacks full of school supplies to local military and community children in need. For more information or to nominate a service member in need, visit <http://www.jbsa.mil/Resources/Military-Family-Readiness/School-Liaison-Office>.

Social Security & You

Date/Time: July 26, 10-11:30 a.m.
Location: M&FRC, building 693
 Attendees will learn about the changes to social security benefits and how it can affect retirement. To register, call 652-5321.

VA workshop

Date/Time: July 28, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: M&FRC, building 693
 Those exempt from the mandatory 5-day Transition GPS Workshop must attend a Veterans Administration stand-alone workshop to review critical VA programs and services. To register, call 652-5321.

Kids in Motion event

Date/Time: Aug. 26, 8 a.m.
Location: Airman's Heritage Park
 In observance of Child Obesity Awareness Month, children ages 5-14 are invited to run an age-appropriate obstacle course. Information on living a healthy lifestyle through will be provided. To sign up, call 652-3641.